

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07774 261024Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05

SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 /106 W

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R 260945Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4237

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS KINSHASA 7774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO, PO, PFOR

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE GENERAL DE MELLO CALLS ON MOBUTU

REF: LISBON 4838

1. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWSAGENCY (AZAP) AUGUST 25 REPORTED ONE-DAY VISIT TO ZAIRE AUGUST 23 BY GENERAL FONTES PEREIRA DE MELLO, CHIEF OF MILITARY HOUSEHOLD TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. DE MELLO SPENT ONE HOUR WITH MOBUTU, DURING WHICH HE DELIVERED "PERSONAL MESSAGE" FROM COSTA GOMES. NO INDICATION OF CONTENT OF MESSAGE. BUT IN STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING GENERAL DE MELLO TOLD PRESS THAT, DESPITE CURRENT CRISIS IN ANGOLA, PORTUGAL INTENDS TO HONOR NOVEBER 11 TARGET DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. SAID PORTUGAL SHARES ZAIRE'S ANGUISH AT ANGOLAN SITUATION. DESCRIBED PROBLEM AS "GRAVE", AND UNDERScoreD PORTUGUESE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINSHA 07774 261024Z

EFFORT TO CONTROL SITUATION. HE SAID THAT PORTUGUAL REFUSES

TO ACKNOWLEDGE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA. CHARACTERIZED SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AS "PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR", OF NOT INTEREST TO TWO SUPERPOWERS. CONCLUDED THAT, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY REFUGEES ON ARRIVAL PORTUGAL, AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO WELCOME PORTUGUESE FROM ANGOLA.

2. COMMENTING ON DE MELLO VISIT, AZAP EDITORIAL AUGUST 25 INTERPRETED EVENT AS EVIDENCE PORTUGUESE APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT PEACE IN ANGOLA

IS UNATTAINABLE WITHOUT ZAIRIAN COOPERATION RECALLED EARLIER VISIT TO ZAIRE BY DE MELLO, FOLLOWING ZAIRIAN-PORTUGUESE SUMMIT AT SALT ISLAND. REGRETTED THAT QUESTIONS OF PEACEFUL PROGRESS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, RESETTLEMENT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES RESIDENT IN ZAIRE, AND EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES DISCUSSED AT SALT ISLAND REMAIN UNSETTLED. EDITORIAL DESCRIBED NOVEMBER 11 DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AS "PROBLEMATIC

, BLAMING CIVIL WAR ON NETO'S MPLA. NOTED NEW INFUX OF REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA. SAID EX-DATANGA GENDARMES NOW SERVING NETO AS MERCENARIES. CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT AUGUST 23 MEETING WILL PROVE A STEP TOWARDS PEACE IN ANGOLA, AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

COMMENT:

3. DE MELLO VISIT APPEARS TO BE IN GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE DESCRIBED REFTEL. WALKER

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